

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MIKE PARMAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael J. Parman, who had a long and distinguished career as editor and publisher of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, the newspaper of record in Sonoma County.

Mike Parman died on July 1st after a long fight against pancreatic cancer. His rise to the top of the North Coast's publishing world was marked by grit, determination and independence. His tenure at the Press Democrat was marked by excellence and community involvement. And his final days marked by self-awareness, humor and grace.

Orphaned at 14, Mike raised himself in Reno, Nevada under the guardianship of two far-apart relatives. He attended Reno High School where he played basketball and was on the wrestling team. Inspired by his journalism teacher, Rex Daniels, he became a sports writer, and the school paper's sports editor, and wrote a weekly column for Reno's daily paper. Mike went on to the University of Nevada at Reno, where, while earning bachelors and master's degrees, he wrestled and boxed and worked as editor and sports editor of the campus paper, and continued to write for the Nevada State Journal.

In 1967, he married Michael McCulloch, the daughter of journalist Frank McCulloch and Jackie McCulloch, a marriage that lasted until his death and produced two children, Chris and Leah, who are now parents themselves.

After completing his master's degree in 1968, Parman was called to military duty. He served as an Army journalist and photographer in Vietnam, where he earned a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal.

In 1970 he was hired as a reporter by the Pioneer Press, a group of weekly newspapers on Chicago's North Shore. He quickly rose to managing editor and at the same time worked as a stringer for Money Magazine. In 1973 he headed west for California, and worked briefly as a copy editor of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat before being hired at the Sacramento Bee. Starting at the copy desk, he successively was promoted to executive sports editor, weekend editor, assistant managing editor, and finally managing editor.

When the New York Times acquired the then privately-owned Press Democrat in 1985, Mike saw an opportunity play a major role in remaking the paper. At the Press Democrat, Mike Parman, first as editor, then as publisher, oversaw several major graphic redesigns of the paper, the construction of a regional printing facility, and the winning of dozens of awards, including a Pulitzer for Photography and a Polk Award for a series of articles.

During his 20 years at the Press Democrat, Mike Parman not only improved the look of the paper and the quality of its journalism and expanded its circulation; he also became deeply involved in community affairs. Mike Parman served as the President of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, on the board of directors of the Sonoma County United Way and on the Advisory Board of the Green Music Center and the North Bay Council.

When Mike Parman retired for health reasons in December 2005, he did not give up his public voice. Instead, he took to the new media, and began writing an Internet "blog," which gave a very personal account of how he, his family and friends were dealing with his cancer. Mike's blog revealed a man facing mortality and the terrors of cancer with courage, compassion and good humor. Going on vacation, Mike wrote that his cancer was a thing that he chose to leave behind. While undergoing chemotherapy, he wrote that he anticipated speaking at a rally where "I will mop my sweating brow, gray hair will explode from my head and little children will run home screaming." And if he used medical marijuana, the rather straight laced Parman feared he would be "Thrown in jail and forced to wear paisley pajamas the rest of my life."

Mike Parman's blog brought heartfelt responses from dozens of cancer patients and survivors, because he not only expressed his own feelings, but hit a universal chord.

"We make every moment count," Mike Parman wrote. "We love deeper. We live deeper. We soar on hope and laughter. We appreciate everything and nothing is taken for granted."

Mr. Speaker, if only we could all live that way every day of our lives.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAMON AYALA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ramon Ayala, one of the most accomplished norteño music legends, for his contribution as the headlining act at the Supply Our Students Concert on August 2nd, 2006.

Mr. Ayala was born on March 10th, 1945, and first began his love of norteño music at six years of age by playing the accordion in small Mexican towns. He then started his path to his success by forming the Los Relampagos Del Norte band in the 1960s that defined modern norteño music. He has performed over a hundred albums, each one completely distinctive in the musical style that is the trademark of Mr. Ayala.

Mr. Ayala also has received two Grammy awards for his music, and numerous other awards. He is known for his philanthropic in-

volvement in the community of South Texas with underprivileged children and children with disabilities. Mr. Ayala has raised thousands of dollars for school supplies in the previous Supply Our Students concerts, and I commend him for his dedication to the education of our children in the great State of Texas. He is a truly exceptional musician and a role model for aspiring musicians.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the exemplary career of Mr. Ramon Ayala and his involvement with the Supply Our Students concert in the City of Laredo on August 2nd, 2006, and I thank you for this time.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Israel, our ally in the Middle East. I would like to thank Majority Leader BOEHNER and Chairman HYDE for their leadership in bringing this timely resolution to the floor.

Since its inception nearly sixty years ago, Israel has been engaged in a war for its survival. It has conducted that war according to every rule set out by the international community and has always acted with restraint when it comes to civilians. Israel's enemies have not only acted without restraint, they have deliberately targeted civilians in an effort to terrorize the nation.

Israel is now engaged in a new chapter of its war on terror. I fully support Israel's right to defend its citizens by using all means necessary to destroy terrorists and those that support them. However, we must also consider the root cause of today's violence. For nearly thirty years, the government of Iran has been monetarily and militarily supporting Hezbollah around the world. Evidence of Syrian and Iranian complicity in Hezbollah's abduction of two Israeli soldiers last week is abundant.

The scourge of terrorism will never go away until the state sponsors of terrorism have been dealt with decisively. Iran today remains the world's largest state sponsor of terror. Iran's president has repeatedly threatened to bring a rain of fire to Israel and the United States. Imagine what might happen if they get a nuclear weapon to back up those threats. The majority of the Iranian people oppose the theocratic dictators that rule their country. The time has come for the United States to actively support the Iranian people and help them bring about democratic change in their country.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CONDEMNING THE REPORT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this Resolution which condemns Hezbollah and Hamas, the terrorist attacks against Israel and the full support of the U.S. for Israel to defend herself and live in peace among her neighbors.

As I support this Resolution, I believe it is deficient in not expressing this body's strongest desire for all parties involved in the current conflict to exercise military restraint in order to spare the lives of innocent Israeli and Lebanese civilians.

While the Lebanese people have been making laudable strides toward a more positive future and a peaceful coexistence in the region, terrorists have sought continuously to ignite conflict. The Government of Lebanon has paid a price for their stand against Hezbollah and Syria, enduring assassinations, political and social turmoil, and now the wide-scale destruction of civilian lives and critical infrastructure.

As a result the people of Lebanon are alongside our friends in Israel in being victimized by Hezbollah and Hamas in the current crisis. Both sides are enduring extraordinary hardship from air and rocket attacks and hundreds of civilians have been killed during the current military campaign. The terrorists have succeeded in creating a humanitarian crisis which the international community, including the United States, has yet to respond to. The escalating conflict is nearing full-scale war and terrorists and their state sponsors are realizing their goal of scuttling the Roadmap to Peace and pushing regional leaders away from the negotiating table.

I believe the United States has the responsibility and the power to be the voice of reason and put an end to brinkmanship. The region is desperate for restraint on the part of all parties. The Resolution is silent on this.

It should be our goal today to protect the civilian lives and critical infrastructure that have been targeted in the current fighting, and work to bring about restraint to resolve the crisis without further bloodshed.

We need a policy in the Middle East that does not begin and end with military force. A political solution must be structured and the U.S. can and should take a decisive role through diplomacy and negotiations to shape a solution to the conflict.

It is regrettable that the above is not addressed in House Resolution 921.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DAVID G. HARLOW FOR HIS 29 YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE TO THIS COUNTRY.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as another Fourth of July has passed us by, Americans are

again reminded of the sacrifices so many have made and continue to make in order to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. None of these freedoms would be possible if it weren't for the brave men and women of our United States Armed Forces.

I stand here today to honor one such individual, Chief Master Sergeant David G. Harlow. On August 26, 2006, Chief Harlow will retire from reserve duty, after more than 29 years of federal military service in the defense of our great nation.

Chief Harlow was born in Riverside, California, and attended Charter Oak High School, where he excelled at Track and Field. After his graduation from Charter Oak, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in July of 1966. Upon completion of his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Chief Harlow was assigned to Whellus Air Force Base in Libya, where he worked in information management. In July of 1968, he was reassigned to the 7272nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, at Kingsley Field in Oregon, where he served as an Information Management Specialist.

Upon completion of his active duty service in July of 1970, Chief Harlow was licensed by the Department of Treasury as an International Customs House Broker in the cargo industry. Over the next few years, Chief Harlow became known as one of the top professionals in his field, and in 1980 he authored a book entitled "Importer's Guide to U.S. Customs."

In August of 1981, Chief Harlow entered the Air Force Reserves at Norton Air Force Base in California, and was placed in the 445th Aerial Port Flight, where he became the Unit Training Manager. In July of 1985, he was reassigned to the 37th MAPS unit at March Air Force Base where he eventually became the Superintendent of Operations. In 1989, Chief Harlow was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant. In November of 1990, he was reassigned to Saudi Arabia in support of operation Desert Storm, and served as his unit's Deployment Team Chief.

Upon his return from Operation Desert Storm, Chief Harlow was awarded the "Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year" award and was promoted to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Later, he was reassigned to the 56th Aerial Port Squadron, where he introduced a set of training exercises known as the Aerial Port Field Exercises. This program trained Aerial Port Squadrons in the areas of mobility deployment and chemical attack survival. Chief Harlow's program was so successful that it led to the 56th Aerial Port Squadron being awarded the Air Force's prestigious "Aerial Port of the Year Award".

In June of 2000, Chief Harlow was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and became the Superintendent of Squadron Operations. In June of 2005 he was reassigned to the 50th Aerial Port Squadron as Superintendent of Squadron Operations.

Chief Harlow has received numerous decorations including the Air Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with Seven Oak Leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service medal, the Air Force Good Conduct medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Throughout his extraordinary service to our country, Chief Harlow has always been a dedicated and loving family man. He is married to his wonderful wife, Laurie Harlow. Together they have two sons, David and Daniel, as well as four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with an extreme sense of respect and pride that I stand here today to recognize Chief Master Sergeant David G. Harlow. His contributions to his family, the United States Air Force, and this great nation serve as a wonderful example of patriotism for all Americans to follow.

COMMENDING NASA ON COMPLETION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE'S SECOND RETURN-TO-FLIGHT MISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Con. Res. 448—Commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the completion of the Space Shuttle's second Return-to-Flight mission.

I can think of no better way to celebrate this great Nation's Independence Day than to witness the triumph of science and innovation. As a Member of the House Science Committee and the Senior Member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, it was a thrill and a joy to see Space Shuttle *Discovery* launch on July 4.

The *Discovery* crew finished their 13-day mission, which included a docking with the International Space Station, two space walks, but most importantly, a keen review of all safety issues.

We began to focus on the issue of safety when the issues were raised by NASA safety engineers just before the launch of *Discovery* the first week of July. I met with NASA Administrator Michael Griffin just before the launch, and I am pleased that emphasis and priority has been placed on the safety of the astronauts and the space shuttle.

This was an exciting and positive mission. Over the course of the 5.8 million mile journey, the STS-121 Mission Crew succeeded in testing shuttle safety improvements, repairing a rail car on the International Space Station and producing unprecedented images of the shuttle during and after its July 4 launch. In addition, the entire mission exhibited a new concern with safety to coincide with NASA's exemplary reputation for accuracy, precision, and innovation.

Americans love their space program and it is the first priority of NASA and Members of Congress to ensure that it is a viable, continuing, and safe program. The survival of the space program has to be premised with an understanding of the risk, yet at the same time must embrace this new important culture of safety.

I would like to extend my thanks to STS-121, Commander Steve Lindsey, Pilot Mark Kelly, and Mission Specialists Piers Sellers, Stephanie Wilson, Lisa Nowak, and Michael Fossum. Your courage and resolve will continue to be an inspiration for generations to come.

Welcome home *Discovery*.